

A FRIGHTFUL TOLL

Cost of Retreat From Marne Was Reckoned to the Last Man.

LEFT RUIN IN HIS WAKE

Belief That He May Reorganize for a Quick Blow in Flanders.

LONDON, Aug. 4.—Telegraphing at 1 o'clock Sunday afternoon Reuters' correspondent at American headquarters on the Alsace-Marne front, says:

The silent is gone. The allied troops, French, British and Americans, already are holding the south bank of the Vesle River. Flames in flames.

The wagons of the retreating German columns can be seen tolling laboriously over the muddy upland roads leading from the river toward the Alsace. Our cavalry patrols have found nothing to report but rear guard screens.

To have thus driven the enemy back to the river, a feat which we must not overestimate the possibilities it may disclose. That the Germans have been forced to retire bitterly against his will is quite obvious.

Nevertheless I am prepared to accept Gen. Ludendorff's statement that the retreat was decided on fifteen days ago after Gen. Petain's blow against the west side of the salient, and the Germans can pride themselves on having succeeded in using Ludendorff's phrase, "master of the situation." That is to say they have been able to avert the doom they feared, which was the collapse of the salient and the consequent capture by the Allies of all the troops within it, and they have been able to withdraw in an orderly manner without serious loss of men or guns, but at a considerable sacrifice of ammunition.

Men Ordered to Die.

To that extent they are masters of the situation—as the bankrupt may be so described who just escaped being sent to prison.

The American communication to-day described the enemy having been driven in confusion beyond the Vesle, and one is extremely glad to hear it, since so far as I have been able to witness or learn in the enemy's retreat, signs of confusion hitherto have been conspicuously absent. Indeed, I never have followed any army's retreat, which left so little evidence of being forced, except in this one matter of ammunition.

The enemy's dead are certainly unburied. But who has buried them? He left them behind him with orders to die. And died they have. They lie in groups about their guns, dozens here, dozens there—very one with an American bullet through his brain or breast, or with the equally decisive stab of an American bayonet.

These groups are close together in vital positions and amount to a total of from 200 to 300 men. They give evidence of discipline and of that sort of determination, and not of that sort of defeatism which is accustomed to find behind the German line.

Counted the Exact Cost.

So far as I can see the enemy counted exactly the cost of his retreat, and did not make a mistake in his margin. As a soldierly achievement, it moved one to admiration, and cheered as one must be by the confession of the Americans which in retirement implies there is nothing in the retirement itself, but to build exaggerated hopes of the future. By far the most hopeful feature of the whole business is the difficulty of explaining it on any other hypothesis than that the Germans are much shorter of men than we had supposed.

Their advance on the west of Rheims was a big tactical success, and they have been justified only by the success of the attack on the east of it. That attack failed, and of days of Boenigk's for a couple of days, the failure of the moment Gen. Petain struck from the west the Germans had no option, with the force at their disposal, to retreat. And they evidently are profoundly thankful that they have made such a good job of it.

Ludendorff calls the operation a strategic success. No, it is not that. It is a great strategic failure, relieved by various tactical successes, and it may not be too soon to say that the failure, even retrieved as it has been, inevitably spells ruin to the German offensive for this season at least, against Paris.

True they have an attack they may deliver in Flanders almost any moment, but it is not a matter of life and death. Reserves have not been drawn upon too largely in the German Crown Prince's interest. But October is likely to be the earliest date for any vital operations here, and October means some half million more of these excellent Americans in the line.

Parasols Beyond Their Guns.

The extreme weakness of Ludendorff's strategic success was exhibited yesterday. A great general with a strategic success had an opportunity yesterday for a big tactical blow which surely would have tempted him had not some serious reasons intervened. The German offensive movement was rapid, and the allied pursuit in order to keep pace with it was forced to outrun the protection of its heavy guns.

The roads, which had been ankle deep in mud, were churned by the passage of the troops into mud, which slowed the progress of everything on wheels. The day with its heavy clouds and thunder showers was difficult for aircraft observation and our cavalry patrols were far from numerous.

It was a most tempting moment for a counter stroke, which would have been certain to inflict heavy losses and put a pretty political finish to that strategic retreat which has so depressed Berlin.

Yet Ludendorff refrained. Why? Well, two reasons suggest themselves. Either he had never the needed force at his disposal, or a defensive attitude to the north of the Alsace having been decided on, the troops required to cover the retreat had been drawn down to the lowest possible numbers, and every available division was being turned round to "Flanders for the long deferred attack on the British front, from which all things had been in readiness since the end of June. A success there would have important consequences and would cover the failure here. And once back on the Chemin des Dames Boenigk's "retreat" army would have time to regroup itself.

The key of yesterday's interest was, of course, Solers. The Germans presented a sorry spectacle when the Allies entered it. The Germans had, as usual, wrecked their spite upon it, destroying the main defensive works, and in a disgraceful manner at Chateau Thierry. Houses had been demolished, that had made them homes. Everything had been flung into the streets. The western suburbs had been razed to the ground, and the Cathedral was but a phantom of its former beauty.

The Nation's Honor Roll

ARMY.	Reported Aug. 4.	Total to date.
Killed in action (including 291 at sea)	91	2,977
Died of wounds	8	2,303
Died of disease	5	1,614
Died of accident and other causes	5	614
Wounded in action	162	7,044
Missing in action (including prisoners)	12	710
Day's totals	283	13,164

(Corrected according to latest War Department figures.)

MARINES.	Reported Aug. 4.	Total to date.
Deaths, all causes	1	734
Wounded	1	1,220
Missing in action (including prisoners)	0	78
Day's totals	2	2,082

(Corrected according to latest Marine Corps figures.)

WASHINGTON, Aug. 4.—Army and Marine Corps casualties reported from overseas during the week ending today increased 1,430, compared with 1,020 the week before. Total casualties reported are 15,196, including today's army list of 283—the largest number yet reported in a single day—and Marine Corps list of two.

While as yet no figures on casualties in the great allied offensive in which American troops are playing so conspicuous a part have been received, the increase in the daily army lists undoubtedly is due in part to this fighting. The increase for the week was 1,354. The Marine Corps list increased only 46 for the seven days.

In the 15,196 casualties, total deaths, including 291 men lost at sea, men killed in action, died of wounds, disease, accidents and other causes, numbered 6,144—army men, 5,410; Marines, 734. The wounded, aggregate 8,254—army men, 7,044; Marines, 1,220. The missing, including prisoners, total 738—army men, 710; Marines, 28. Of the week's increase deaths from all causes totaled 651, as compared with 393 the week before. The wounded numbered 752, compared with 591 the previous week, and the missing and prisoners totaled 47, compared with 68 the week before.

Today's casualty lists follow:

KILLED IN ACTION.

Major.

WILLS, JOHN H., Lehighburg, Va.

Lieutenant.

RICKARD, FORBES, Jr., Denver.

Sergeant.

ACKERMAN, EDWARD, Evansville, Ind.

ANDREWS, ALBERT, Houston, Texas.

ANDREWS, LESTER, Midland City, Ala.

BROWN, JOHN, New York.

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SLAIN LIST HEADED BY CAPT. MANNING

Brooklyn Winner of Victoria Cross Had Reenlisted After Being Gassed and Shelled.

FATHER TO AVENGE SON

New Casualties Reveal Heroism of Soldiers From the Metropolitan Area.

Capt. John Manning, a real soldier of fortune, was reported in yesterday's casualty list as having died from wounds on July 25. He was wounded in the early days of the fighting along the Marne salient, and it is quite probable that the list that bears his name is the immediate forerunner of the reports that will tell the real story of the American casualties in the fighting that sent the cream of the German army scurrying back to the Alsace River.

Capt. Manning was 38 years of age and his home address was at 25 De Koven court, Brooklyn. He had served with Gen. Pepping in the Philippines in the early fighting days of the American campaign, and the present war gave him an opportunity that he improved at the opening by winning the Victoria Cross for an act of exceptional bravery.

After Gen. Pershing returned to the United States from the Philippines Capt. Manning remained in the United States as a member of the constabulary. He was in civil life in this country when the Lusitania was sunk, and went immediately to the front to fight in the service of the United States.

The Canadian made him a Captain on April 18, 1916, and before the end of the month he was overseas and had been wounded. He was reported as having been sent back to the front, where he was gassed. Finally shell shock got him and he was honorably discharged.

As soon as he was recovered he was placed in command of the army he enlisted in the United States Army and was soon advanced to the rank of Captain. He was reported as having been sent back to the front, where he was gassed. Finally shell shock got him and he was honorably discharged.

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U-BOAT CREW SAYS MINE SANK CRUISER

Dornfontein's Sailors Were Told U-56 Caused Loss of San Diego.

MORE SUBMARINES SEEN

Submersible Described Was Said to Have Arrived in Spain August 1.

A CANADIAN PORT, Aug. 4.—The United States cruiser San Diego was sunk off Fire Island last month by a mine laid by the German submarine U-56, which captured and burned the Canadian schooner Dornfontein in the Bay of Fundy last Friday.

This news is disclosed as the result of statements made by members of the crew of the submersible to sailors from the sailing ship who were taken on board the submarine.

The captain and crew of the Dornfontein arrived here last night, after having been held on the U-boat for five hours and then later to take to their lifeboats and make for the nearest point of land. Upon their arrival they were questioned by the naval authorities.

Four U-Boats Reported Near.

They said that members of the U-boat crew told them there were four submarines operating off the Atlantic coast, but they expected to arrive soon. Naval officers here were inclined to discredit this story of reinforcements, asserting that it was probably told to cause alarm among the civilian population in coastal towns.

According to the survivors' story all but the captain were taken into the interior of the submarine, passing through the engine room to what they described as a "sort of hold." The captain, however, was kept on deck.

Sailors Treated Well.

While held prisoners the sailors were offered a meal of bully beef and rice and were assured by their captors that they would eat the food without fear of poison, as the U-boat was "not after them."

The submarine, according to the Dornfontein's crew, was more than 200 feet long and mounted two guns, said by the Germans to have a calibre of 5.9. She carried a crew of at least seventy.

The crew of the Dornfontein may have been mistaken in the identity of the submarine, as they were taken aboard a schooner, for a despatch from Santander, Spain, dated August 1, stated that the U-56, which arrived here under its present name, was a German submarine.

Another despatch from London under the same date, quoted the Times as stating that the British submarine U-56 was sent to Santander to organize the destruction of allied and Spanish shipping.

Attention on January 27, 1917, when in a wireless despatch sent out by the Overseas News Agency from Berlin to Sayville, N. Y., the reported sinking of the submarine by the British destroyer Delphin west of Nueva, Spain, was denied.

The small valleys leading into the Vesle from the southern edge of this plateau may afford him cover for machine gun defence, but the next forty-eight hours or so should tell the tale. For the present, at any rate, the Boche is retreating, or as he calls it, withdrawing, and he is not likely to prevent such a shock as he got when American impetuosity helped to break his line on the Chemin des Dames.

An American unit starting near Marcell at dawn today marched all night into the afternoon, meeting practically no resistance. The unit was part of the Fourth Prussian Guards Division and gave himself up to the Americans said the German infantry had retired beyond Flines.

The manner of the German retreat from their trenches on the southern fringe of the forest of Nesles beyond Serres, was typical of what happened in the battle of the Marne. The Germans, under the strictest orders to preserve absolute silence, tricked away by companies and battalions, and they were seen to be retreating, going mostly by by-paths, which were marked in advance by signs, white flags and wisps of straw.

Trying to Deceive Americans.

There was a considerable interval between the time of the departure of the various companies from the front line to the rear, and the time when they were seen to be retreating. The last company got away about 4 o'clock, but left behind a number of machine guns, which the Americans, with a few infantrymen instructed to fire their rifles occasionally and send up a few rockets to give the impression of a force, so that they were still there in force. The machine guns were ordered to fire from the ground on any airplanes that tried to bomb them or the retreating troops.

The Americans were not fooled as completely as the Germans wished. Movements they observed behind the enemy's line on Friday told them that they would either counter attack or retreat and would not rest content simply to hold on. The Americans also were reinforced by a heavy bombardment of our lines Friday evening by guns almost exclusively of one calibre, as if the others were being moved back; and they were ready to go forward as soon as possible.

Their advance was begun by patrols and continued in open formation, with the general plan of making no frontal attack on such machine gun nests as were encountered, but to flank them and pass on, while in several places our own machine guns were used to reduce those of the enemy. It was a general policy of infiltration through the German machine gunners, who begin to run as soon as they are threatened by the enemy.

There is evidence along the line of retreat that the Germans were in some haste. They left behind a number of their wounded, notably in the Nesles Chateau, who said transportation was too scarce to permit their removal, while in Nesles machine gunners were being collected to be sent to Germany to be left behind.

The German artillery had great difficulty in getting through the Forest of Nesles.

LANDS FOR HOMESTEADERS.

Large Tract Opened Up in Utah and Nevada.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 4.—More than 225,000 acres of land, a portion of the Dixie National Forest in southeastern Nevada and southwestern Utah have been opened up to homesteaders by a proclamation issued by President Wilson. The area includes about 226,175 acres in Nevada and 715 acres in Utah.

The lands restored by the proclamation, Secretary Lane announced today, will become subject to entry only under the homestead law.

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This news is disclosed as the result of statements made by members of the crew of the submersible to sailors from the sailing ship who were taken on board the submarine.

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